

## THE HEADPHONES

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Today it is almost impossible to walk around town or on campus and not to come across at least a few dozens of people in the headphones. They are both small miniature headphones-buttoned and huge headphones.

Surprisingly, not everyone wants to hear our music. When some people were pumping our LCD Soundsystem mixtape, others in the office said they couldn't "concentrate" and they "wished the first were fired." For this, and for many other reasons, headphones are an absolute necessity in our daily lives. It was long before Steve Jobs produced white earbuds and Dr. Dre jumped in the game, however, that people began getting tunes pumped into their ear canal. Here's basically how it all went down.

1881 – Way before MP3s, dubstep and premium Spotify accounts, headphones had little to do with music at all. Back in the 1880's, the first headphones (or at least their early ancestors) were used by telephone operators. It was a single earpiece that rested on the user's shoulder and weighed over 10 pounds.

In 1910 Nathaniel Baldwin began manufacturing the first modern headphones. He crafted them in his kitchen and sold them all to the U.S. Navy. Baldwin never patented them.

In 2008 Dr. Dre and Jimmy Iovine joined forces and, along with Monster, created Beats by Dre headphones. Designed with deep bass and great sound quality in mind the Beats line quickly grabbed a large market share and could be seen on just about every NBA player or football players as they walked from the bus to the locker room.

2012 – Headphones have become as much about style as they are sound quality. This may never have been more relevant than when Lil Wayne wore these \$1 million dollar pair of Beats.

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